

Applic. No. 09/878,665

Amdt. dated October 1, 2003

Reply to Office action of May 21, 2003

Claim Amendments

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Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 22, wherein at least some of said legs are pivotable into a horizontal position, a vertical position, and oblique positions different from said horizontal position and said vertical position.

Claim 3 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 2, wherein at least some of said legs form a set-down surface for hollow dishes when at least some of said legs are pivoted into at least one of said oblique positions.

Claim 4 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 2, wherein at least some of said legs form a set-down surface when at least some of said legs are pivoted into an oblique position half-way between said horizontal position and said vertical position.

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Claim 5 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 2, wherein at least some of said legs form stops for retaining hollow dishes in said horizontal position.

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Claim 6 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 2, wherein at least some of said legs form stops for retaining hollow dishes in at least one of said oblique positions.

Claim 7 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 22, further comprising:

further prongs having one leg;

said further prongs and said prongs being alternating disposed on said base wire; and

said two legs of said prongs forming a stop for retaining hollow dishes.

Claim 8 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 25, further comprising:

further prongs having one leg;

said further prongs and said prongs being alternating disposed on said base wire; and

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said two legs of said prongs forming a stop for retaining hollow dishes.

Claim 9 (currently-amended). The dish rack according to claim 22, wherein said prongs having ~~at least~~ two legs are L-shaped.

Claims 10-15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (currently-amended). The dish rack according to claim 24, wherein said prongs having ~~at least~~ two legs are L-shaped.

Claim 17 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 16, wherein said retainer is pivotable into a horizontal position, a vertical position, and oblique positions different from said horizontal position and said vertical position.

Claim 18 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 17, wherein a least one of said legs forms a set-down surface for hollow dishes when said retainer is pivoted into at least one of said oblique positions.

Claim 19 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 17, wherein at least one of said legs forms a stop for

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retaining hollow dishes in at least one of said horizontal position and said oblique positions.

Claim 20 (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim 24, further comprising:

further prongs having one leg;

said further prongs and said prongs being alternating disposed on said base wire; and

said two legs of said prongs forming a stop for retaining hollow dishes.

Claim 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (previously-presented): A dish rack for accommodating dishes, comprising:

a plurality of base wires forming a dish rack base; and

a plurality of prongs each having two legs with two free ends and an intersection connecting said legs to one another, each of said prongs being connected to a respective one of said base wires in a vicinity of said intersection, and distal from

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said free ends, and at least some of said prongs being pivotable between different pivot positions about a respective longitudinal axis of one of said base wires.

Claim 23 (previously-presented): In a household dishwasher, a dish rack for accommodating dishes, the dish rack comprising:

a plurality of base wires forming a dish rack base; and

a plurality of prongs each having two legs with two free ends and an intersection connecting said legs to one another, each of said prongs being connected to a respective one of said base wires in a vicinity of said intersection, and distal from said free ends, and at least some of said prongs being pivotable between different pivot positions about a respective longitudinal axis of one of said base wires.

Claim 24 (previously-presented): A dish rack for accommodating dishes, comprising:

at least one base wire and a plurality of prongs forming a retainer;

said plurality of prongs each having two legs and an intersection connecting said legs to one another, each of said

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prongs being connected to said base wire in a vicinity of said intersection and distal from said free ends, for securing dishware, and at least some of said prongs being pivotable between different pivot positions about a longitudinal axis of said base wire.

Claim 25 (currently-amended). The dish rack according to claim 22, wherein some of said prongs are pivotable into three functional dish rack positions, including:

a first functional dish rack position in which a first one of said legs is substantially perpendicular to a plane defined by said dish rack base and a second one of said legs is substantially parallel to said ~~dish rack base~~ plane;

a second functional dish rack position in which said first and second legs enclose acute angles with said ~~dish rack base~~ plane; and

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a third functional dish rack position in which said first leg is substantially parallel to said ~~dish rack base~~ plane and said second leg is substantially perpendicular to said ~~dish rack base~~ plane.